Operation Knowledge

2111. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government have launched a programme called "Operation Knowledge";

(b) if so, what are the main features of the programme; and

(c) by when, the programme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Government is considering major initiatives to strengthen IT and IT-enabled education in the country at different levels such as schools. ITIs, polytechnics, universities and engineering institutions with the overall objective of meeting manpower requirements of IT and IT-enabled sectors of the industry. These initiatives may be termed as Operation Knowledge. Some of the initiatives being considered enhancing and monitoring quality of IT education; increasing in-take of students in IT related engineering disciplines in existing institutions; introducing bridge programme for engineering students in non-IT engineering disciplines; and encouraging private sector participation in IT education.

At Task Force on Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development has been set up. The Task Force among other things will give its report in a month for doubling IITs/RECs from next academic year and tripling the intake in the next two years.

Amount spent on Y2K Advertisements

2112. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent of Y2K advertisements, on print media and on electronic media separately;

(b) what was the basis for such a huge spending in a country like India where Y2K would have had little impacts;

(c) if at all, what was the role and relationship of "Integrated